

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-6 and 13-19 and amend claim 7, as set forth in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fuel cell provided with a cell unit comprising an electrolyte-electrode joined unit including a protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte, wherein said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte, which is composed of, is formed by initially impregnating a matrix impregnated with a liquid electrolyte, and thereafter, coating the entire and which has a surface coated of said matrix with a crosslinked polymer membrane, said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte being interposed between an anode electrode and a cathode electrode each having a gas diffusion layer and an electrode catalyst layer stacked on said gas diffusion layer and wherein said crosslinked polymer membrane is produced in a chemical reaction between a crosslinkable polymer deposited onto the entire surface of said matrix impregnated with said liquid electrolyte and a crosslinking agent with each other.

8. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell according to claim 7, wherein said liquid electrolyte for constructing said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte is any one of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, and methanesulfonic acid, and said membrane is composed of a basic polymer having a structural unit of monomer of secondary amine.

9. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell according to claim 8, wherein said membrane for constructing said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte is formed by crosslinking said basic polymer with a crosslinking agent containing two or more isocyanate groups.

10. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell according to claim 7, wherein said matrix for constructing said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte is composed of a polymer, and said membrane is formed by crosslinking said polymer for constructing said matrix.

11. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell according to claim 10, wherein said liquid electrolyte for constructing said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte is any one of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, and methanesulfonic acid, and said membrane is composed of a basic polymer having a structural unit of monomer of secondary amine.

12. (ORIGINAL) The fuel cell according to claim 11, wherein said membrane for constructing said protective membrane-equipped composite electrolyte is formed by crosslinking said basic polymer with a crosslinking agent containing two or more isocyanate groups.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CANCELED)